(c) From time to time, different political parties have been giving expression to their views on electoral reforms. Government's intention is to consult the political parties before deciding upon the electoral reforms.

Transfer of Technology from U.S.S.R.

454 SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S.S.R. have offered Transfer of Technology in a number of spheres;

(b) if so, the details of such offer and

(c) the progress so far made with regard to discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) These include areas of Metallurgical and Materials, Chemical, Electronics and Computer, Building, Biomedical, and Electrical and Power industry. Agreements have been reached in some of the cases.

Electoral reforms

455. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised its proposals for the electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Popular Resistance Against Missile Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa

456. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that popular resistance to the proposal for establishing National Test Range at Baliapal and Bhagroi Blocks of Balasore district of Orissa is persistently growing; and

(b) if so, whether Government will reconsider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir, there is no change in the Government decision regarding setting up of National Test Range at Baliapal in district Balasore, Orissa.

Iodised Salt

457. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that iodised salt is being sold at a price higher than ordinary salt;

(b) whether Government are aware that poorer sections are not buying iodised salt due to higher price and also due to lack of knowledge; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that both the types of salt are sold at the same price?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c) According to statistics available with the Salt Commissioner, the prices of Iodised salt is marginally higher than common salt are comparable. In order to maintain the prices of iodised salt, Government of India is providing 100 per cent subsidy towards the cost of Potassium Iodate, the chemical used for iodation of salt.